

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: OASGA 28 - ASSEMBLY WRAPUP

REF: STATE 070321

ATTN: NATO GODFREY H. SUMM

SUMMARY: THIRD REGULAR OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY CLOSED APRIL 15 AFTER TWELVE ARDUOUS DAYS OF MANEUVER AND DEBATE. DESPITE CRITICAL INITIAL SPEECH- MAKING, ASSEMBLY TOOK ON REALISTIC AND CONCILIATORY TONE AND ENDED IN GENERALLY FORWARD- LOOKING SPIRIT IN WHICH U. S. JOINED. KEY DECISION CALLED FOR SPECIAL STUDY AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADJUST INTER- AMERICAN SYSTEM TO POST- PATERNALISM ERA. ASSEMBLY ALSO PASSED DECLARATION RECOGNIZING " PLURALITY OF IDEOLOGIES" AND REAFFIRMING, AT SAME TIME, INTER- AMERICAN SECURITY MECHANISMS (REFTEL). END SUMMARY

1. AS EXPECTED, CONSTANT THEME OF THIS YEAR' S ASSEMBLY SES- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SION WAS DISSATISFACTION WITH INTER- AMERICAN SYSTEM ITSELF AS MECHANISM FOR AGGREGATING MEMBER INTERESTS AND FOSTERING

COOPERATION TO DEAL WITH MAJOR HEMISPHERIC PROBLEMS. IN INITIAL, HOME COUNTRY HEADLINE- GRABBING GENERAL DEBATE SPEECHES, A NUMBER OF FOREIGN MINISTERS PLACED FAULT FOR SYSTEM'S INADEQUACIES AT U. S. DOORSTEP, ARGUING THAT OVERWHELMING U. S. POLITICAL INFLUENCE, OUR NEGLECT OF LATIN INTERESTS, AND OUR REFUSAL TO HONOR COMMITMENTS HAD HAMSTRUNG OAS OPERATIONS. SOME PROPOSALS HINTED AT EXCLUDING

U. S. OR AT SOMEHOW INSULATING OAS ASSISTANCE FUNCTION FROM U. S. POLITICAL INFLUENCE.

2. BY MIDPOINT IN SESSION, HOWEVER, RHETORIC DECLINED WITH REALIZATION THAT U. S. FULLY SHARED DISSATISFACTION AT WAY SYSTEM CURRENTLY PERFORMS (ALBEIT FOR DIFFERENT REASONS); THAT PATERNALISM WAS REALLY FINISHED; AND THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO JOIN ACTIVELY IN BUILDING MORE REALISTIC AND OUTWARD-LOOKING RELATIONSHIP. THESE POINTS WERE OF COURSE CENTRAL ONES IN SECRETARY'S OWN FORCEFUL, FRANK, YET POSITIVE ADDRESS AND IN PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRES. NIXON STRESSING ERA OF PATERNALISM HAD ENDED. USDEL SOUGHT TO REINFORCE THEM BY PARTICIPATING ACTIVELY THROUGHOUT SESSION, STAKING OUT U. S. INTERESTS IN CLEAR TERMS BUT AVOIDING FORMULA PRESCRIPTIONS FOR OAS ILLS. SOBERING EFFECT ON ASSEMBLY WAS ENHANCED BY PRESS ITEMS SUGGESTING U. S. MIGHT WITHDRAW COMPLETELY AND BY CLEAR SIGNS OF STRAIN BETWEEN LARGER AND SMALLER LATIN NATIONS.

3. KEY ASSEMBLY DECISIONS (UNDER AGENDA ITEMS 9 & 10 PROPOSED BY CALVANI AND PLAZA RESPECTIVELY) REFLECTED THESE CONVERGENT INTERESTS BETWEEN U. S. AND LATIN AMERICANS:

-- RESOLUTION SETTING UP SPECIAL COMMISSION TO STUDY SYSTEM AND PROPOSE MEASURES FOR RESTRUCTURING IT, WENT THROUGH LENGTHY PROCESS OF ELABORATION. INSPIRED ORIGINALLY BY ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT CALVANI (VENEZUELA), WHOSE REFLECTIONS ON OAS MISSION AND PURPOSES HELPED FOCUS ASSEMBLY TOWARD CONSTRUCTIVE EXAMINATION OF INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP, THIS PROJECT WORKED ITS WAY TOWARD IMPLICIT CONSENSUS THAT (A) SYSTEM WAS WORTH SAVING AND (B) U. S. SHOULD REMAIN INVOLVED. SPECIAL COMMITTEE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMPOSED OF REPS OF ALL MEMBER GOVTS. IS TO BEGIN STUDIES BY JULY 1, PRESENT CONCLUSIONS TO GOVTS BY NOVEMBER 30, AND RECOMMEND CHANGES TO NEXT YEAR'S ASSEMBLY SESSION. ALTHOUGH MOST DELEGATES WERE SUITABLY AWED AT TASK CUT OUT FOR COMMITTEE, FEW WERE PREPARED TO DISMISS ITS SIGNIFICANCE.

-- RESOLUTION ON PLURALITY OF IDEOLOGIES ("PRINCIPLES

GOVERNING RELATIONS AMONG MEMBER STATES") THREATENED INITIALLY TO DERAIL ASSEMBLY WHEN CHILE AND BRAZIL CLASHED HEAD- ON OVER ITS IMPLICATIONS TOWARD CUBA. (REFTEL). WE WERE SUCCESSFUL IN HAVING MATTER REFERRED TO WORKING GROUP WHERE WE WERE ABLE TO BRING ABOUT SUFFICIENT CHANGES TO MAKE RESOLUTION VERY ACCEPTABLE FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW. CHANGES INCLUDED SUBSTITUTING FOR " IDEOLOGICAL PLURALISM" THE PHRASE " PLURALITY OF IDEOLOGIES" AND SPECIFYING THAT RESOLUTION WAS SUBJECT TO THE NORMS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE

CHARTER AND SPECIAL TREATIES MENTIONED IN IT (MEANING THE RIO TREATY UNDER WHICH SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA WERE TAKEN). THIS WAS PASSED BY CONSENSUS AND THE PRESS IN LATIN AMERICA, ACCORDING TO WHAT WE HAVE SEEN HERE, HAS VIEWED IT AS A CONSIDERABLE TRIUMPH FOR BRAZIL AND THE U. S.

4. WE ABSTAINED ON TWO RELATIVELY MILD RESOLUTIONS-- ONE AIMED AT U. S. STOCKPILE DISPOSALS AND ANOTHER AT TRANS-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS. A THIRD RESOLUTION, WHICH ELIMINATED CATEGORY OF " PERMANENT" MEMBERS FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES OF TWO TECHNICAL COUNCILS, WAS ALSO AIMED IN PART AT U. S., ALTHOUGH MORE SIGNIFICANT STIGMA PROBABLY ATTACHED TO OUR FELLOW " PERMANENT" MEMBERS ON THOSE COMMITTEES, BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, AND MEXICO, AND ILLUSTRATED HOW LARGER LATIN COUNTRIES HAVE COME TO SHARE POLITICAL SLINGS AND ARROWS WITH US. ON WHOLE, HOWEVER, PROCEEDINGS AND RESOLUTIONS REFLECTED-- ESPECIALLY ON PART OF PERUVIANS AND TO LESSER EXTENT EVEN CHILEANS-- A CONCILIATORY DISPOSITION.

5. DIVISIVE ISSUES AND FRUSTRATIONS WERE NEVER VERY FAR BELOW SURFACE. WE WOULD NOT WISH OVEREMPHASIZE THE APPARENTLY FAVORABLE TURN OF EVENTS AT ASSEMBLY. CONSENSUS WAS FRAGILE AND BASED ON LUCK AND ON ASSIDUOUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIPLOMATIC FOOTWORK AS WELL AS ON SUBSTANTIVE AGREEMENT. MUCH CREDIT FOR SUBDUED TONE AND ABSENCE OF CONFRONTATION MUST GO TO CALVANI HIMSELF, WHO INSPIRED SYMPATHY AND COOPERATION AMONG DELEGATES FOR HIS ADROIT, SENSITIVE HANDLING OF ASSEMBLY. MOREOVER, DECISIONS WERE IN EFFECT SET ASIDE PENDING THE WORK OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION, WHICH WILL NOT HAVE AN EASY TASK.

6. WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO OTHER DELEGATIONS, HOWEVER, THAT WE REGARDED ASSEMBLY'S OUTCOME AS FAVORABLE AND PROMISING BASIS FOR DIFFICULT PERIOD OF SELF- ANALYSIS LYING AHEAD. MOST OTHER DELEGATIONS SEEM TO SHARE THIS MODEST BUT HOPEFUL VIEW.

7. POSTS ARE FREE TO DRAW UPON FOREGOING AS DESIRED IN
DISCUSSING OASGA RESULTS WITH HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.
REPORT SIGNIFICANT REACTIONS AND COMMENTS.

8. FOR NATO EXPERTS WORKING GROUP. REPRODUCE AND
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